

February 5, 2003
P.O. Box 19203
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Boundary Commission
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Boundary Commission,

I am responding to your information contained in the Application of Borough Incorporation Standards which considered the City of Thorne Bay becoming part of the Prince of Wales Borough.

Many of the facts in the Application are not up-to-date concerning Thorne Bay and Prince of Wales Island. For one, Thorne Bay is no longer a log transfer site. Logging employs very few residents here. The commercial fishing industry has declined sharply, due to low fish prices, high fuel costs, and less fish buyers on the fishing grounds. Thus, the fishing industry is an undependable source of income for Prince of Wales Island residents.

Currently, the major employers in Thorne Bay are the U.S. Forest Service and the Thorne Bay School. The majority of the government & school employees are not property owners & would not be affected by property taxes. Many of the property owners here do not have a steady assured income, so it would be a financial hardship to support the services mandated for borough government.

With more research to update the "facts" on Prince of Wales Island presented in the Application before making a recommendation, you will find that the hardships associated with forcing us to become a borough would be detrimental to the full-time residents living here.

Please include Prince of Wales Island on the list of areas of unorganized boroughs to be excluded from further consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wise